

8. Diseases of the Blood, Lymph Glands or Nodes, and Ductless Glands.

9. Diseases of the Nervous System.

10. Diseases of the Ear, Eye, Skin, and Abnormal Growth.

11. Diseases of Spine and Joints.

12. Miscellaneous. (Dietary, Adulteration of Milk, Anaesthetics, Prescriptions, etc.)

The reading in the first part of the book is somewhat laborious, but in the latter half Dr. Fischer settled down to an interesting style of writing which may be followed with ease. Each disease, if possible, is presented under the sub-headings of definition, etiology, pathological anatomy, symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and diet. Many of the medicines are in prescription form, and the suggestions as to diet are numerous. The author has evidently taken much trouble in getting the latest authority on matters of bacteriology and in presenting the same in brief but complete form.

As to infant feeding, Dr. Fischer says he favors whole cow's milk for a bottle-fed baby even from the first. He describes all methods of feeding, however, and uses them as occasion arises. At the same time he describes in detail his dietetic treatment of illustrative cases which have occurred in his practice.

Dr. Fischer thinks a local anesthetic and tonsillectomy preferable to tonsillectomy—a belief which does not accord with findings in the clinics. He also advises a general anesthetic for adenoidectomy.

In some such details Dr. Fischer's ideas may differ from those of the reader, but in general, and in particular under infectious diseases, his book is interesting, comprehensive, and replete with good plates, statistics, helpful prescriptions and welcome suggestions in diet.

H. W. I.

**Medical Electricity and Rontgen Rays.** By Sinclair Tousey, M. D. Published by W. B. Saunders Co.

The first two hundred and eighty pages of this book are really a treatise upon electricity. It is perhaps somewhat too technical for one who is beginning the study of the subject, but it contains much information that is not usually found in a book of this title; for example, the dimensions of the Spottiswood induction coil, made in 1876, are given in detail. A table of the fusing points of metals and alloys is included, and a description of the electric light and power service, with extracts from the regulations of the United States National Board of Fire Underwriters is added.

The next seventy pages consist of a description of the physiological effects of electricity upon the various body structures, thus we find the effect caused by electric stimulation of the vagus, of the sympathetic system, of the myocardium, etc., stated, and as references are freely given, it should be of service to those interested in this branch of work.

A chapter on electro-pathology follows, containing information on the effect of lightning strokes and the pathology of high tension industrial currents. The chapter on electro-diagnosis contains excellent photographs showing the motor points. The technique given for exciting the reaction is a good one. A description of electro-diagnosis on eye diseases (a matter of not much practical importance) is added.

In the chapter entitled "Electricity in Diseases of the Nervous System," we find a description of Head's work upon the various sensibilities and plates after Starr, indicating the distribution of the various cord segments, matter not commonly to be found in a work of this kind and yet, perhaps, having some bearing to the subject discussed.

Fulguration is described in the chapter devoted to high frequency currents and the effects produced on tumor growths are noted. Whilst this method of treatment has become known as the Keating Hart method, as the author says, many individuals have for a considerable time used high frequency sparks

for similar purposes. The various modes of application of high frequency current are described and the discordant results of the French and German physicians in the treatment of high blood pressure are noted, and whilst the author refers to many instances (Arteriosclerosis, Sterility, Diabetes, etc.), in which he seems to regard this method of treatment as having been the predominant curative factor, yet it is done in such a way as to make criticism difficult.

The last four hundred pages are devoted to Rontgen Rays, and there are many commendable features in this portion of the work. The half-tones of the head sinuses filled with shot, thus showing the position of their shadows, are very serviceable. The plates of the teeth are excellent. The colored plates representing active X-ray tubes are poor, and would convey little to uninitiated. There are a few statements that seem to the writer to require revision; thus, it is said, imported Lumiere plates are four times faster than ordinary American plates—two to one would be a more fair estimate. The instrumentarium necessary for, and the manner of producing rapid radiograms, are noted, but the author exhibits no unwise enthusiasm in recommending their use.

The dire results that have occasionally followed the administration of large doses of Bismuth subnitrate are drawn attention to, and the proper salts recommended. The effects of prolonged X-ray exposure upon the different body tissues are listed, and references given to the original articles.

The author naturally speaks highly of his own diaphragm and of his method of estimating ray intensity, a method requiring much more space than is ordinarily allotted to the Rontgen ray rooms.

Taken in all, this book seems to be the best of its kind in English. It is, however, more suited for one having some experience than for the beginner in the work.

G. L. P.

**Operative Surgery for Students and Practitioners.**

By John J. McGrath, M. D. F. A. Davis Company, Publishers, Philadelphia. 1909. Professor of Operative Surgery at the New York Post Graduate Medical School; Consulting Surgeon to the New York Foundling Hospital; Visiting Surgeon to the Harlem and Columbus Hospitals; Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine; Member of the American Medical Association, etc. Third Revised Edition, with 276 Illustrations, Including Many Full-Page Plates in Color and Half-Tone.

That this book supplies a definite demand is evidenced by the fact that it has already passed through two previous editions. Although the title-page announces that it is written for students and practitioners, it is difficult to understand just what is the advantage of this manual over a good, up-to-date text-book.

For the student there is lacking any discussion of the principles upon which are based the various procedures described for the surgical relief of a given condition; and it is, in our opinion, perhaps an even greater error of omission that we are given no data as to the relative values of the numerous operations listed under each heading. The arrangement is the usual anatomical one, each division being preceded by a brief outline of the surgical anatomy of the region about to be considered. These anatomical descriptions are not always as lucid as might be desired. While there is a distinct advantage in having available a single volume containing both surgical anatomy and operative technic, this advantage, however, does not compensate for the utter absence of the personal note in the writings of Dr. McGrath.

There are many surgical procedures which, though antiquated, are important from the point of view of the development of the art, but which have no place in a volume purposing to contain useful, practical information. We need but mention, as an example, the operation ascribed to Rose-Andrews for the

removal of the Gasserian ganglion (p. 42) which has, probably, never been performed since the Hartley-Krause method has become public property. (1893.)

The author has omitted mention of brain-tumor, operations upon the posterior fossa of the skull, physiologic extirpation of the Gasserian ganglion, the hypophysis, the cervical lymph-nodes, blood-vessel suture, aneurysm and skin-grafting.

The book may be of some value for trained surgeons desiring a handy reference volume, and perhaps for students in a course in operative surgery under an instructor's eye; but it is questionable whether a book which, in describing Bassini's operation for inguinal hernia (p. 466-7) states that "In its upper part the incision should be deepened until the fibres of the aponeurosis of the external oblique are plainly visible. The fingers are then introduced into the upper, deeper part of the incision, and it is torn open down to its lower end," is a safe one to place in the hands of our medical students. S. H.

#### **Preparatory and After Treatment in Operative Cases.**

By H. A. Haubold, M. D. Publishers, D. Appleton & Co.

This is a book of six hundred and fifty pages, covering a subject the substance of which could be clearly and concisely written in a book of from fifty to a hundred pages. In order to take up space we note many illustrations which are beautiful enough to look at, but are without any special value. We are shown Kelly pads, sponges, beds, collapsible tubes for lubricants, rectal tubes, several pages of needles, etc. And while the author states that his main object in writing the book is for the general practitioner in the country, still his descriptions are for a well equipped hospital in a city.

Again he would lead us to think that there is a continual petty jealousy existing between the surgeon and the internist, and he thinks that this feeling can be eliminated by the surgeon permitting the internist to have full charge of the patient from the time that the patient has left the operating-room. This I believe to be a dangerous suggestion and one that cannot help but cause complications. The family naturally hold the surgeon responsible for the result of the operation, and he should therefore insist on having absolute charge. Haubold also advises giving a half grain of morphia hypodermically for the relief of thirst, a very dangerous and unnecessary practice. J. S.

#### **Essentials of Laboratory Diagnosis.** By Francis Ashley Faught, M. D. Publishers, F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia.

This book aims to present in a concise manner the fundamental methods of laboratory diagnosis. The effort is made to present them without unnecessary detail, and the more cumbersome and elaborate methods are omitted altogether. In the main the author has succeeded fairly well. The field is covered quite fully, following the plan laid down in the larger works. With the actual description of methods of work and the gross and microscopic appearance of various objects but little fault can be found. The subject matter, however, is badly mixed up in various places. For example, the first chapter deals with the microscope and its use, and in it are several pages devoted to the examination of urinary sediment and of the blood, matters that should be relegated to their respective chapters. Again under the subject of bacteriological examination of the blood and the making of blood culture are paragraphs on the malarial parasite and the spirillum of relapsing fever.

There is a decided disproportion in the amount of space devoted to various topics. For example, twenty-three pages are given to the subject of blood pressure. It is doubtful if this subject should receive any discussion in a manual of laboratory diagnosis; certainly not the elaborate discussion here devoted to it. Again the subject of the estimation

of peptic activity is entered into quite fully. While this is a matter of real interest, its practical importance is as yet too small to call for such an elaborate discussion. And so all through the book one gets the impression of lack of balance.

Illustrations are few and not always timely. It would be far more instructive to beginners to omit pictures of an autoclave, an Arnold sterilizer and a Westphal balance, for example, and give a good chart of the microscopic picture of stained blood films. In general it may be said that the book needs good editing. H. A.

#### **Surgical After-Treatment.** By L. R. S. Crandon, M. D. Publisher, W. B. Saunders.

As might well be expected, an attempt to fill nearly eight hundred pages on a subject such as this one has proven to be a failure. There must of necessity be a large number of useless illustrations and numerous repetitions, as well as a wandering away from the subject itself.

In chapter thirteen, under the heading of Gavage and Other Forms of Artificial Feeding, the author recommends as the simplest method of nasal feeding the pouring in of the fluid from a spoon into the nostril. This I believe to be bad practice, as it is much more surgical, cleaner and easier for both patient and doctor to introduce a soft catheter through the nostril and feed the patient through it.

In chapter fourteen the author fails to mention the use of quinin both as a prophylactic and curative agent in the so-called "catheter fever."

The chapter on drainage is very good.

In the treatment of erysipelas the use of the anti-streptococcic serum is not mentioned. As an illustration of how hard it is to keep to the subject-matter of this book, we might call attention to the chapter on preparatory treatment. J. S.

#### **Hygiene and Morality.** A Manual for Nurses and Others, Giving an Outline of the Medical, Social and Legal Aspects of the Venereal Diseases. By Lavinia L. Dock, R. N. Publishers, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

In this little book, a much-discussed subject is tactfully and skillfully handled by a thoughtful and experienced woman. Though written especially for nurses, it may well be read with interest and profit by all who are interested in the welfare of humanity.

Miss Dock first gives a clear, concise and accurate description of the venereal diseases, which should be studied in all training schools for nurses. She lays the spread of venereal diseases at the door of prostitution, and then details the failure of modern systems of police control to eliminate them. Lastly, the author discusses her plan for their prevention, claiming that they will be eradicated only when prostitution will disappear. To accomplish this, two factors are necessary: first, an active campaign of education, teaching the masses the meaning and origin of syphilis and gonorrhea; second, the granting of suffrage to women, they alone being able to legally and socially uplift and protect their sex.

Especially to be commended is the insertion of the bibliography. R. L. A.

#### **The Practical Medicine Series.** Vol. II, General Surgery. Edited by John B. Murphy. The Year Book Publishing Company, Chicago, 1910.

The present well-illustrated volume of 615 concisely written pages is far superior to those of previous years, and will be found very serviceable as an index to current surgical literature. The editor's introduction contains a deal of timely and suggestive statements.